

Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SS-15 RSC-01 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 L-03 H-03 EB-11 MC-02 AID-20

OMB-01 TRSE-00 IGA-02 RSR-01 /101 W

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R 240412Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9287

C O N F I D E N T I A L TAIPEI 4440

EO 11652 GDS

TAGS MASS, TW

SUBJECT: PROPOSED SALE OF M-14 RIFLES TO ROC

REF: A) STATE 132021, B) TAIPEI 4543, SEPT. 1972

1. ASSESSMENT REFERENCE B REMAINS VALID. APPROXIMATELY 341,000 MODERN SHOULDER WEAPONS ARE REQUIRED TO OUTFIT ROC ARMED FORCES WITH MORE STANDARDIZED AND MODERNIZED ARMS INVENTORY (WHICH NOW INCLUDES M-1'S, M-1 AND M-2 CARBINES, AND COLLECTION OF 1903 AND 1918 VINTAGE WEAPONS) AND TO REDUCE ATTENDANT SUPPLY AND MAINTENANCE PROBLEMS. CO-PRODUCTION LOCALLY OF M-14 HAS TURNED OUT 63,584 WEAPONS TO DATE. INVENTORY ALSO INCLUDES 27,600 M-16'S ISSUED TO SELECTED UNITS. IN TOTAL, GRC HAS 170,000 ADEQUATE SHOULDER WEAPONS ON HAND, OR SHORTFALL OF ABOUT 50 PERCENT.

2. AVAILABILITY OF UNSPECIFIED QUANTITY OF M-14 RIFLES TO BE FURNISHED "AS-IS" AT COST OF US\$42.47 WAS CONVEYED TO US BY DEPARTMENT OF ARMY (DA) IN DECEMBER 72. IN SAME MONTH GRC RESPONDED TO OUR INQUIRY AFFIRMING A NEED FOR 42,000 RIFLES. THIS WAS LATER MODIFIED (MARCH 73) FOR BUDGET REASONS BY MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE (MND) TO 20,000 -AS-IS- CONDITION" RIFLES. ON MARCH 30, 1973 DA ADVISED THAT THE

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GRC SHOULD PROCEED WITH ESTABLISHMENT OF FMS CASE TO PURCHASE

RIFLES, EMPHASIZING THAT "AS-IS" RIFLES
DID NOT INCLUDE BASIC ISSUE ITEMS AND M-14
SPARE PARTS WERE IN SHORT SUPPLY. MAAG LETTER TO MND
ON APRIL 3, 1973 FORWARDED DA INFORMATION, AND RECOMMENDED
GRC ANTICIPATE REPAIR PARTS REQUIREMENTS BASED ON THEIR
EXPIERENCE WITH 50,000 "AS-IS" M-14 RIFLES PURCHASED IN DECEMBER
1972.

3. GIVEN SERIOUS GRC SHORTFALL IN MODERN WEAPONS INVENTORY,
AND THE FACT THAT M-14 WHICH IS NO LONGER PRODUCED IN US AND IS
IN SHORT SUPPLY WOULD COMPLEMENT GRC
CO-PRODUCTION OF M-14, COUNTRY TEAM RECOMMENDS APPROVAL
OF GRC CASH PURCHASE OF 20,000 M-14 RIFLES.
MCCONAUGHY

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NNN

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